| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| | 10/046 484 | KITAMURA, SHINJI |
| Notice of Allowability | 10/046,484 Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Abolfazl Tabatabai | 2625 |
| The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308. | | |
| 1. This communication is responsive to <u>application filed on January 16, 2002</u> . | | |
| 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-31</u> . | | |
| 3. The drawings filed on 16 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner. | | |
| 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority una a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: | been received. been received in Application No | |
| Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. | | |
| 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. | | |
| 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted. | | |
| (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached | | |
| 1) 🗌 hereto or 2) 🔲 to Paper No./Mail Date | | |
| (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date | | |
| Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d). | | |
| 7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL. | | |
| Attachment(s) 1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. ☑ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No./Mail Date 1/03/05 | 6. ☐ Interview Summary Paper No./Mail Da 8), 7. ☐ Examiner's Amendr | te ment/Comment |
| Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. ☑ Examiner's Stateme 9. ☐ Other | ent of Reasons for Allowance |
| | | |

Application/Control Number: 10/046,484

Art Unit: 2625

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest, an apparatus for embedding watermark information in compressed data, and apparatus for retrieving watermark information from compressed image data having watermark information embedded therein comprising a connecting means for connecting the additional bits having the watermark information embedded therein by the embedding means with the codeword extracted by the variable length decoding means to produce a variable length code. in combination into other features and elements of claims 1 and 13.

- 2. Claims 1-31 are allowed.
- 3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Citation of Relevant Prior Art

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Rhoads et al (U S 6,590,998 B2) disclose network linking method using information embedded in data objects that have inherent noise.

Yamadaji et al (U S 6,192,138) disclose apparatus and method for embedding/unembedding supplemental information.

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

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Rhoads (U S 6,343,138 B1) discloses security documents with hidden digital data.

Aggarwal et al (U S 6,834,344 B1) disclose semi-fragile watermarks.

Bloomberg et al. (U S 5,761,686) disclose embedding encoded information in an iconic version of a text data.

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to ABOLFAZL TABATABAI whose telephone number is (703) 306-5917.

The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mehta Bhavesh M, can be reached at (703) 308-5246. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unit 2625

January 3, 2005

A-Tabatalas.